



**Office of the Attorney General  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Attorneys General enter \$80 Million agreement with  
Heart Drug Cardizem CD Manufacturer**

Tennessee Attorney General Paul Summers with 49 attorneys general today announced a nationwide settlement for \$80 million involving antitrust allegations against the popular heart medication Cardizem CD.

The 50-state agreement resolves an antitrust lawsuit filed against Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. ("Aventis"), Andrx Corporation ("Andrx") and affiliated entities. The lawsuit alleged that Aventis and Andrx had engaged in an illegal agreement where Aventis paid Andrx nearly \$90 million to stay off the market with a less expensive generic version of the drug Cardizem CD.

"Unfortunately, some Tennesseans paid an estimated \$400 more per year in 1998 and 1999 than they would have paid if generic versions of the drug had been on the market sooner," Attorney General Summers said. "We hope this settlement will serve as a warning to those who think they can conspire to keep drug prices for consumers higher than they should be."

Under the agreement, Aventis and Andrx are required to pay \$80 million into a fund that will compensate consumers, state agencies and insurance companies who overpaid for Cardizem CD and its generic equivalents between 1998 and 2002. Tennessee's share is \$20,000 for the State claims and consumers are expected to receive approximately \$418,871.53.

Upon approval by the court, Tennessee Attorney General Summers will implement a claims administration process this summer for consumers who purchased Cardizem CD or its generic

equivalent at any time between January of 1998 and January 2003.